

## PARIS FASHIONS

### LATEST Models for Plain and Figured Velvet Gowns

BY MRS. A. T. ASHMORE.

EARLY in the season word went forth from Fashion's headquarters that velvet was to be the most fashionable fabric this winter, and in consequence for some time there have been models displayed of smart street costumes of velvet, velvet and corduroy. Only recently, however, have the more elaborate street gowns and those intended for afternoon and evening been exhibited, although the season is so near at hand when velvet gowns are to be worn.

The fabric is so emphatically suited to cold weather that its use all summer, combined with the thinnest of materials, such as chiffon and lingerie, has seemed almost too incongruous to be attractive, but, eccentricity being the watchword of modern dress, the combination has been accepted and admired. Entire velvet gowns and velvet costumes have not, however, been included in summer outfits, and only now are they voted appropriate.

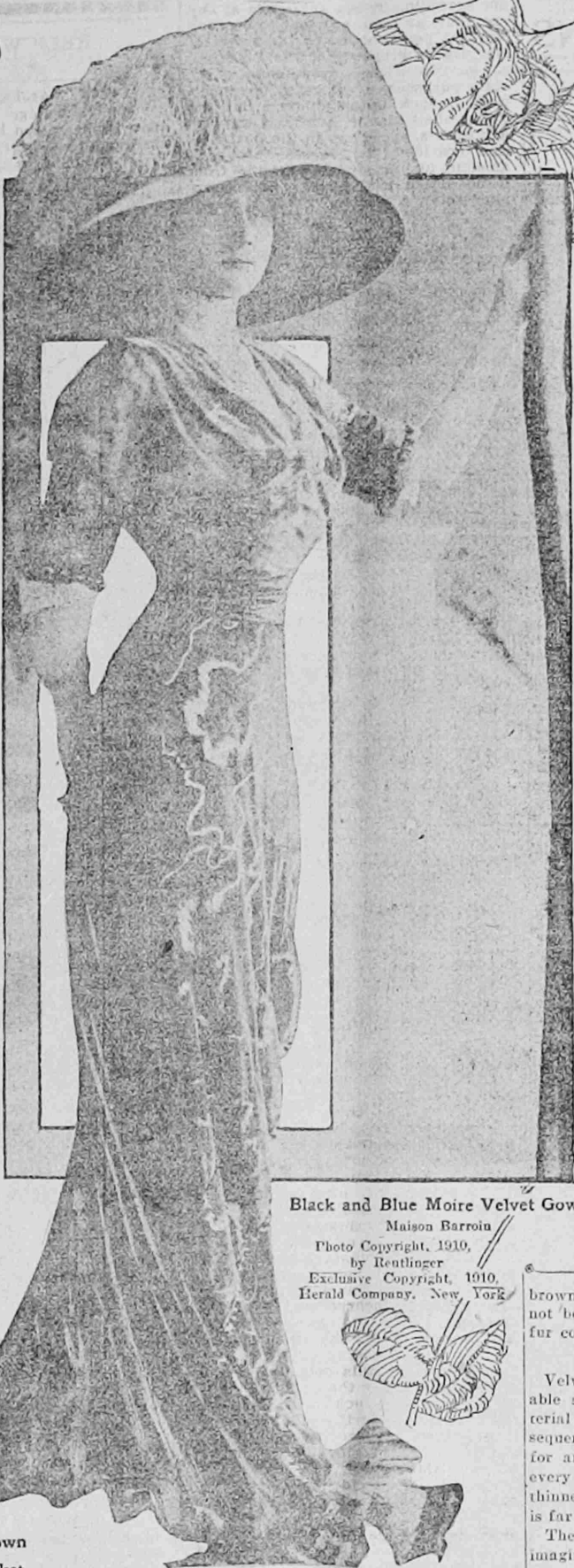
Plain and fancy velvets and velvetenees are alike fashionable this season, and all colors are to be seen—black and white stripe or any dark color with a fine hair line of white is smart, and there are many charming costumes of this description, but these costumes are not, in some respects, so smart as the plain velvets and are classed more with the black and white striped cloths, which are never made up for the same use as the plain black for afternoon and reception wear.

#### Variety in Styles.

There is a great variety in the styles, little or no trimming, except fancy buttons—but it is the design of the skirt and jacket that marks the difference and it is certainly remarkable what different effects are obtained, and with exactly the same material—short jackets and narrow, but not too scant skirts, are the invariable rule, while the wonderfully clever treatment of lines gives the slender appearance now demanded of every fashionably gowned woman. The hair stripe of white is of additional aid to slender lines, and a lot depends upon how wide apart are the white lines, and there is enough variety for every woman to select what will be the most becoming.

The plain black or colored velvet costume is very smart this season and is so

old rose are all fashionable. A becoming color is the gray with a warm light through it. This trimmed with skunk or sable fur is very charming and quite novel. One model has a band of fur around the skirt and also around the coat, the skirt with a short train and the waist embroidered in silk of the same shade as the velvet, with one or two darker tones worked in with it. The fur is skunk or sable. The same model in a lighter gray with chinchilla is also good, while in



Black and Blue Moiré Velvet Gown

Maison Barrois  
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Gray Velvet Gown  
Photo Copyright, 1910, by Reutlinger  
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Striped Black and White Velveteen Gown

Maison Rochet-David.  
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Black Velvet Gown with Caracul Jacket

Maison Drcoll.  
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they are more suitable for afternoon than morning. Corduroy and velveteen are different and there are many smart costumes in the lighter colors that are not too elaborate for morning. In fact, a gray or tan corduroy is suitable for only the morning street gown.

#### The Fashionable Shades.

The perfection of materials is shown in the moiré velvets this season. They are most unusual in design and coloring and are rarely beautiful. This is a winter when all broads are fashionable, but the moiré velvet broads have not as yet been used extensively; it is, indeed, too expensive and only suited to gowns of the elaborate order. An exquisite model that is deservedly popular is in blue and black moiré velvet, a pale blue line running through the black in moiré design. The skirt is plain, but it is a mistake ever to trim figured materials, that in themselves are decorative, and this, like all broads, is that if nothing else. In the original model this was intended for an afternoon reception gown, but can be changed to a theatre and evening gown without in any way interfering with the first plan. Plain satin or velvet, a bit of rare old lace or other

most easily be renovated, so that the same gown can do duty for several seasons, and with merely slight alterations will look like new. The colored velvet gowns are so distinctive that the second season they cannot be disguised or done over to look like new. The two reasons sound strangely inconsistent, but can readily be understood by any one forced to study dress closely.

#### Velvet and Fur.

Velvet and fur make a combination absolutely irresistible, and one seems



BLACK CLOTH COSTUME.

but to set off the other's attractions. Both are so suitable for cold weather, both are so becoming, it is small wonder that they are the delight of every well gowned woman who really loves dress for its own sake. All kinds of fur seem to go well with velvet, but the true fitness of clothes decides upon the more expensive furs as being the more suitable. The finest quality of the most-né Persian lamb with velvet is most effective, and the finest of the caracul looks well also. A popular model of the season is a gown of black velvet to be worn with a Persian lamb or caracul jacket. The gown itself is severely simple in design, but the jacket is braided and embroidered. It seems like rank vandalism, this trimming costly fur so beautiful in itself, but when Dame Fashion commands, her subjects must obey, and, after all, the effect is good, and what more can be desired? The style this winter of the short jacket shows to best advantage both gown and coat, for when the long coat is worn it completely hides the gown. Long fur coats are not out of fashion, be it understood, only when to be worn with an elaborate gown the short jacket is chosen in preference. Black velvet is the smartest with the black fur jacket, purple—one of the season's popular colors—red,



VELVET AND CLOTH COSTUME.

trimming of genuine value can be used on the waist of such a gown, but it will mar far more than improve it if any cheap or ineffective trimming is chosen. There are so many good points in favor of a velvet evening gown that it seems like heresy to say anything against it; but its very excellence makes it not a woman's practical investment for the woman of moderate means. A good quality—and it really should be the best for an evening gown—wears forever. It may become marked or defaced, but can



CLOTH AND SATIN GOWN

brown or gray, beautiful in themselves, not being thought smart with the black fur coat.

#### Tea Gowns of Velvet.

Velvet tea gowns are also fashionable again this season, but as the material is more closely woven and consequently warmer than is generally used for any gown to be worn in the house every effort is made to so combine it with thinner fabrics that the amount of velvet is far less than the chiffon or net.

The quality is of the finest and softest imaginable, chiffon and mirror velvets, as they are called, being chosen in preference to all else. The long court train of velvet worn with a lace or embroidered chiffon gown is always effective, and the colors fashionable this season are exceptionally well suited to this purpose. There are shades of orange, of cerise, pale rose, blue and Nile green, all of which light up well and are in good contrast to the lace or chiffon gown itself.

The velvet should never be cut or made into any elaborate trimming, but should be left to hang in straight folds from the shoulders both back and front. One charming model has the back in one piece, and on the shoulders, where it is joined to the fronts, it is held together with interlaced loops of silk or satin or, most effective of all, with gold or jeweled clasps.

#### An Interesting Model.

Like a sleeveless loose coat of velvet is another popular model, to be worn over a gown of silk net or chiffon. The skirt of the gown has a train, for no tea gown looks well with a short skirt, and the coat is long also, looks, in fact, like a long mantle. As a rule it has no trimming and at most has a narrow edge of gold passementerie. One of the newest fads is the bordering of fur or feathers, but this last idea has not yet been adopted to any extent. However, it is one of this winter's designs, sable, ermine or skunk being the favorite furs. A royal blue velvet tea gown, with a border of white ostrich feathers, is a popular design, but this is one of the few models that are shown where the entire gown is of velvet. The front is of lace or net and the gown is



BLACK AND WHITE VELVET GOWN.

caught together at the bust, but is only fastened with a clasp and is then left to fall loose.

One of the most useful, practical and inexpensive velvet gowns is a sort of compromise between wrapper and tea gown. It is made of cotton velvet and is trimmed with a heavy cream lace. The sleeves and upper part of the gown

are cut without seams in the shoulders, but in order to obviate the kimono appearance somewhat there are folds of the velvet that go over the shoulders and are caught at the back with a buckle. The same effect is given in front. Then covering the wrapper neck is the lace laid flat against the velvet and also down the front. Then can be added a girdle with ends of satin in a jewelled belt, but the gown must be complete without it. There are many colors that are suitable for these gowns, a red, green or heliotrope being the principal favorite. It is not a good model in black nor too light a color. The black is too heavy and sombre, the light color is inappropriate.

It is extremely fashionable this winter to combine cloth or satin with velvet, and then the velvet will be one color and the satin another. Black velvet, with the new shade of blue, is very smart; the skirt and lower part of the waist of the velvet, the upper part and sleeves of the blue and with only a small yoke or collar of net or fine lace; not dead white, but a light ecru or cream color. The same model is copied in black velvet and black satin, with a deep yoke of blue chiffon above the satin, and with only a small yoke or collar of the lace or net in white, to make it more becoming. One of the sharpest contrasts is shown in the black velvet gown made with a band across the centre of the skirt in heavy ecru lace. There is a band across the waist also, but this is so unbecoming to most figures that it is better to make the waist all in black excepting for the yoke, and that not too deep, of ecru lace.

## PRACTICAL DRESS HINTS

THE dress question of the moment is, it must be admitted, decidedly depressing to the great majority of women who like to be well gowned and whose allowance for dress is at all limited. It is not an agreeable feeling to wear



SATIN AND CHIFFON GOWN.

gowns that are conspicuously old fashioned, and yet to discard gowns that are in good order seems criminally extravagant. At the same time to undertake to remodel last season's clothes means a hideous outlay, not only of money but of time, strength and patience.

The sensible woman at this time of year takes stock of all her wardrobe, summer and winter gowns both, and then if she really is sensible she ruthlessly discards anything and everything that really is hopeless because of what requires to be expended on it to make it up to date. "Take no thought for the future" applies to the dress of to-day most conclusively, for who knows what fashion will command for next year? In the summer wardrobe will undoubtedly be found at least one gown that can be freshened and made to do duty as a second gown for home dinners or for the theatre. Anything and everything else had best be given away or sold as junk. Among the sad collection of last winter will be one street gown and one evening gown perhaps. It is safe to say there will be no

more. The street suit can be cut over. A good pattern and a clever seamstress or a little tailoring can do wonders in transforming the last season's skirts. Last winter's long coat can be cut off into this winter's short jacket, and thus there is a second street gown.

A thorough, up to date street gown and one new evening gown will then, with the two or three made-overs, enable a woman



BLACK SATIN GOWN.

to look smartly turned out all winter if only she buys carefully. If she has a stock figure the department shops offer attractions that seem too good to be true, and most superb materials can be bought by the yard for the evening gown, that this season requires so much less material than was ever known and which need not



EMBROIDERED CLOTH GOWN.

be made by an expensive dressmaker to look absolutely the latest style, for if fashions are so distinctive they can be evolved by the aid of good designs and patterns, it is essential to calculate what the sum total will be of the winter outfit and then manage accordingly, not being led astray by reckless buying.